



Find Your Hispanic Ancestors on FamilySearch

Latin America “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide teaches various manners to find Hispanic people in the indexed records on FamilySearch.org.

INTRODUCTION

People with Hispanic ancestry can have a difficult time searching for their ancestors on FamilySearch.org. Many times, the names are written differently than you expect, meaning that you may need to try a variety of searches in order to find a person in an indexed record collection. Also, Hispanic last names have been indexed in a variety of ways, making it difficult to know what to type in the Last Name field.

There are a variety of ways to overcome these problems. This guide will provide four methods to search for Hispanic ancestors on FamilySearch.org

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- Reading Spanish Handwritten Records

HOW TO

In order to find your ancestors in the indexed collections on FamilySearch.org, try the following methods:

Search by Your Deceased Ancestor’s Name

1. Write the **First Name and Last Name** of your ancestor in the corresponding field.
 - a. If your ancestor had a double last name, only search with one of their last names. Many Hispanic names were indexed with software that only allowed for one last name. If no results are found, try the second last name, then both names together.
 - b. Do not click the check boxes next to the name fields. Doing so limits the search to exactly what you write in the boxes and will not show any spelling variations of an ancestor’s name.
2. Restrict records by **Location** by writing the name of the country and state or province where your ancestor lived in the corresponding field.

3. Click **Search**.
4. (Optional) **Search with a life event** such as a birth, marriage, or death date. Be sure to include a range of years before and after the date you believe is correct.
5. From the search results, click the **box containing your ancestor's name** or on the **details icon**. The details icon looks like a small piece of paper with writing on it.
 - This will open the record details, an index of the information from the record.
6. If possible, **click the image icon**. The image icon looks like a small camera.
 - Read the record, focusing on information that was not indexed.
 - If the image is difficult to read, click **Tools** and **Adjust Image** to change the brightness and contrast. Click Apply to save your changes
 - Click on **Image Index** to minimize the indexed information.
7. **Attach the record** to Family Tree or save it for future reference.

Search with Relationships

There are three ways to search for an ancestor based on family relationships that are very helpful in finding your Hispanic ancestors. They are searching with an ancestor's spouse, searching with their parents, and searching with their double last name.

1. Search with a Spouse
 - a. Enter **the first name and last name** of your ancestor.
 - b. Click **Spouse**.
 - c. Enter **the first name and the last name** of the spouse.
 - d. Restrict records by **Place** by entering in the country and state or province where your ancestor lived.
 - e. Click **Search**.
2. Search by Parents
 - a. Do not enter the **first or last name** of your ancestor. Leave these fields blank.

- b. Click **Parents** under **Search with a relationship**.
 - c. Enter the **first name and last name** of the father and mother of your ancestor. If you only know one parent, leave the other fields blank.
 - d. Restrict records by **Place** by entering in the country and state or province where your ancestor lived.
 - e. Click **Search**. This will find matches for your ancestors and all their siblings.
3. Search by double last names
 - a. Enter the **double last names** of your ancestor.
 - a. Restrict records by **Place** by entering in the country and state or province where your ancestor lived.
 - b. Click **Search**. This will find matches for your ancestors and all their siblings.

Search using Wildcards

Wildcard searches help you find records that contain spelling variations or may have been indexed incorrectly.

FamilySearch allows two types of Wildcard Searches.

1. Search with a question mark to get results that replace the question mark with any letter of the alphabet. For example, searching for Eche?erria will return results that include Echeberria, Echeverria, and Echeferria.
2. Search with an asterisk to get results that replace the asterisk with any combination of letters of the alphabet. For example, searching for Ma*a would return results that include Maria, Mariana, Magdalena, Marcela, Mariposa, and many other variations.

Although wildcard searches are essential for finding rare or peculiarly spelled names, they can be useful tools to make sure the search engine finds an ancestor's records even if the ancestor's name has been incorrectly spelled.

PRACTICE

Search for the marriage record of Juan Gomez in the historic records of FamilySearch. He was married around 1890 in the province of Copiapó, Chile.

1. Enter **the first name** of Juan and **the last name** of Gomez
2. Restrict records by **Place** by entering Chile as the country and Copiapó as the province.
3. Click **Search**.

4. Filter your results by **Marriage Year: 1800** to only view marriage records created between 1800 and 1900. This filter is located at the bottom-left of the page.
 5. From the list of results, click the entry for **Juan Gomez López** or on the **Details Icon** to the right of his name.
 - Review the indexed information. There may be more information on the record than what was indexed.
 6. Click on the image of the record.
 - The entry for Juan Gomez Lopez is entry #9, located on the bottom-right of the image.
 - Read the record, focusing on the information that was not indexed.
 - If you want, use the indexed information on the bottom of the screen as a reference for the key information in the record.
2. Using the information from this record, answer the following questions.

Juan Gomez Lopez's nationality	Chileno, Chilean
Juan Gomez Lopez's age	41
Juan Gomez Lopez's marital state before his marriage	Viudo; widow
Names of Juan Gomez Lopez's parents	Cecilio Gómez y Bernarda López

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.

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